Ulysses: activities

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1) The speaking voice of the poem is Ulysses, the protagonist of Homer’s Odyssey. The author with the use of the dramatic monologue expresses the main character’s feelings about his past and his boring life in his kingdom, in Ithaca. Alfred Tennyson’s Ulysses is old, inept, bored. He would experience again journeys with his mariners.

2)

* Life on Ithaca (lines 2-5): It is uncivilised and barbarian;
* His past life: Ulysses misses is past life, his adventures;
* View of present and future (19-32): the present is boring, makes feel him inept ;Ulysses thinks about the feature kingdom of this son, Telemachus;
* Attitude to Telemachus (33-44):he knows he will be a greater king, but between father and son there isn’t anymore connection, they are strangers;
* Address to his mariners (45-70): Ulysses, addresses the end of the poem to his mariners, inviting them to join another journey with him, without any guarantee on their fate ;

3) a)  Ulysses is an old man who remembering his past thinks about his present in a bored way. Before to die wants to experience some more leaving Ithaca. He is totally different from is son, Telemachus will be a great king, because he loves rule and get decisions for community.

Ulysses could be symbol of human being. Each human on the earth wants to experience as more as he could, because is in his nature and in a situation of routine, like ur every day life, ou couldn’t experience as your nature wants. Tennyson’s Ulysses and Homer’s one are opposite characters. The first one is inept, unsatisfied, normal man that lives in a routine, the last one is an heroical character that defeats every difficulty, that lives without any certainty about his future.

b)    Lord Tennyson sides with Ulysses because both search new experiences in the travel.

4) I think that the poem reflects a sense of loss. First of all for the choice of the age of the character, that is an old Ulysses, or for the reflection that this one makes on his life.

5) The poem is written in blank verse, characterised by an irregular meter and it is unrhymed. Alfred Tennyson make a wide use of figures of sound, like alliterations. There are alliterations of some letters like L,M, S, R. Moreover there are some repetitions of vowel sounds in some lines of the poem.